

A CHANGE OF PROGRAMME

For some time past the British in South Africa have been endeavoring to impress upon the natives of Matabeleland the blessings of civilization and the advantages of British protection through the wholesale destruction of their superstitious population by fire and sword. From time to time we have been told through the cable of glorious British victories and the slaughter of swarms of the natives. The King, Lobengula, who must have some staying qualities in his head, has been endeavoring to escape, and British troops have been following him up and humbly endeavoring to put an end to his troubles. Of course, this has all been in the name of humanity and civilization. But now the condition of affairs has undergone a change, and intelligence reaches us of a "great disaster." Two columns of the English civilization spreaders, numbering together probably nearly two hundred men, who were pursuing the fugitive King and his warriors with the Christian intention of wiping them off the face of the earth, have been led into an ambush by the natives and are now being annihilated.

HORSESHOES AND REFORM

Affairs at Gravesend were marked by two incidents yesterday. The friends of McKane delighted at the stay of proceedings granted by Judge Cullen, the effect of which is to keep the trial out of jail at least until the holidays, presented their boss with a handsome floral gift. It appropriately took the form of a horseshoe, emblematic of the manner in which the boss is kicking against the action of the courts, and of the special Grand Jury. At the same time, the reputable citizens of Gravesend stated a regular organization under the name of the Citizens' Association and the leadership of Mr. W. Vocrees, to make a thorough campaign in the management of the Democratic party and to turn McKane out of the leadership if he cannot be put into jail.

ONE MAN PUT TO WORK

There is one man less out of work today than there was yesterday. The lucky or unlucky man, according to the standpoint from which the reader looks, at work in Prof. A. Allen's Natural History Museum, who has been engaged to look up the pedigree of Chiko and Johanna, the social leaders in Central Park's zoological circles just now. Prof. Allen's job is to find out whether Chiko and Johanna are chimpanzees or gorillas or just plain everyday apes.

"OLD POP" ELDRIDGE DEAD.

Retired from the Police Force Against His Will When Eighty-eight.

Ex-Police Officer Richard S. Eldridge died of senility at his home, 229 Amsterdam avenue, this morning, at 2:30 o'clock.

Eldridge was known for years by almost every one on the force as "Old Pop Eldridge," and at the age of eighty-eight, when he was retired, he made a vigorous protest against the order, alleging that he was able to perform his duty as a policeman as well as any of the "young fellows." From all accounts he was, but his retirement was upon an act of benevolence to the old man.

A short time previous to his death he was retained to patrol duty from the ordinance squad, with which he had been for years. Then he went out and traveled, and he was the youngest of the patrolmen and faithfully performed his duty.

"Old Pop" Eldridge was born Oct. 27, 1798, and died at the age of eighty-eight, about the age of retirement under the present regulations. The department was then known as the Municipal Police, and he patrolled both the city and Brooklyn. The old man married his second wife at the age of thirty, and she was a very pretty and the latter followed him in June.

READ HIS OWN OBITUARY.

New Bedford Newspaper Premature in Announcing a Death.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Dec. 28.—A column obituary notice of Warren Ladd, one of the best known citizens of this city, and father of ex-Gov. Ladd, of Rhode Island, was published in a morning paper here.

The whole thing was a mistake, and when Mr. Ladd came down to breakfast this morning he found the obituary notice of his own obituary.

LIVED OVER SIX SCORE YEARS.

Death of an Ex-Slave at the Alleged Age of 121.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Dec. 28.—James Morris, colored, who was born in the village of New Bedford, was born in bondage in the family of the late Mrs. Zaimon Rice, in Delaware, one hundred and twenty-one years ago.

This is shown by the record of his birth, inscribed in the family Bible.

Found Dead on a Church Roof.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—Pat Hickey, a roofer, left his home here two weeks ago to repair a church roof at Four Park, six miles north of the city. When he was found dead on the church roof, he had been there two weeks. Heart disease was the supposed cause of his death.

A brave man he would not have been where fallen ruins could bury him beyond human help. He was one of the heroes of New York's Fire Department, and, although there are heroes left, he will be missed.

Ex-Bridge Policeman Lally is again in the toils. He has been previously known as a man with a pull. It was some little trouble for "The World" to convince the police that they could catch him if they tried. It will be interesting to notice whether Lally's pull remains strong enough to extricate him from the net into which illegal acts at the polls in the late election have now brought him.

Interest in the report that a city official is about to tell Dr. Parkhurst all he knows will be an uncertain quantity until it is discovered how much that is. Those who know the most are not usually the ones who tell it all.

"What goes up must come down," says the proverb. Holders of stock in New England, and of recent confidence in McLeod's management, are prepared to realize the old truth anew.

Rio harbor, judging from the conspicuous lack of rapidity in the movement of events there, is not the most promising point for our new navy to study somebody else's grim war.

Millionaire Carnegie's arrangement to pay the community for his board and lodging by keeping his mills going all winter is one that ought to be mutually gratifying.

"Property is theft," is the doctrine of Anarchy. "He who steals least, steals best," is the way the average Anarchist amends it for individual use.

The next popular lecture is not yet announced to be one by Police Commissioner Martin on "The Short Cut to Wealth."

They have caught a whale off Long Island, but Long Island's political Jonah is still at large, thanks to his stay.

New York now has one model steamship pier. It is not for lack of facilities that it has not many more.

The law, thus far, has held the position on an odds-on favorite at the Ivy City Winter racing track.

Shut off the tin horns and let Trinity chimera ring the New Year in. It can be done.

When cablegrams disagree who's to decide where Mello and his gunboats are?

Chicago's deficit is still a little below the National debt. But it's growing.

Will the new City Hall be "Fifteen minutes from Harlem?"

A Long-Felt Want.

Wanted, an experienced politician who can combine morality and ward politics. Address Richard Croker, Tammany Hall—Washington Post.

Logic of Louie's Approval.

Louie Michel says he heartily approves the throwing of bombs by Valliant. It is to be remarked—impossible to remark since a wave of regret—that he bomb did not hit the gentle Louie.—San Francisco Examiner.

A Label for McKane's Name.

John V. McKane's act of proceedings ought to be labeled "An Incentive to American Politicians to Corrupt American Politics."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Real Case of "Whilly Nilly."

Benjamin F. Felt is a candidate for the Presidency in 1904, whether he will or no.—Philadelphia Times.

The New Windy City Fan.

Nobody is considered too fan in Chicago now unless he has something to confess in connection with the great Cronin murder.—Pittsburg Leader.

Denial of a Hit-Wager Story.

New York policemen are interested in the appearance of Sgt. Hyman in his first high hat. The report that he won an election bet with the late Dr. Parkhurst is authoritatively denied.—Newark News.

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"A COUNTRY SPORT."

That fat, yet funny, gentleman, Peter F. Dalley, is now a star whining at the Bijou Theatre in a sort of unfathomable ragout called "A Country Sport." The programme says that he is an "indivisible creature," and that, therefore, the programme is not to be believed, for it goes on to say that the author of "A Country Sport" is John J. McNally. He! He! Just as though anybody could possibly have written it! From all appearances it was invented by Mr. Dalley himself and Miss Mary Irwin.

McNally, who was first, and gradually, by consulting the condition of their audience, achieved the ragout. If Mr. McNally really wants to be known as the author of "A Country Sport," well, I'm sorry for him. He should see a doctor, and have his system braced.

Those who go to the Bijou to see a jolly variety show, will not be disappointed, for jolly it is, and filled with pleasant billy and acrobatic wit. Mr. Dalley is a clever fellow, with a peculiar facility of making jokes without emphasis, and a string of Latin words, the apparent effort. He will not appear to clamor for the centre of the stage, and he is no more ostentatious than he was last year when he "supported" Jimmy Powers, or permitted Jimmy Powers to support him. He has a little vocal work to do, and his lack of voice does not hurt him. Perhaps it is fortunate that his vocal equipment is not more elaborate, for he might then become a nuisance.

Almost as much as Dalley did for Powers last season Miss Mary Irwin does for Dalley in "A Country Sport." She is remarkably good, her presence is a real asset, and she is by no means wanting in refinement. Miss Irwin has gone from Dalley to Dalley, and she seems happier with the additional I and E she can sing a comic song as well as any of them and she can illumine it with a smile that is large, elastic and quite irresistible. "A Country Sport" is not three some while Dalley and Miss Irwin are upon the stage, but when they are not in view the affair is fearfully tedious and raw. There is nobody else of much account in the company with the exception of John G. Sparks and perhaps James F. Callahan and Ada Lewis. Miss Lewis is a good singer, and she has, however, become fatigued. The champagne bottle has been open too long and the "flax" has gone. She was a wonderful acquisition to "Telly and the 40's," but in "A Country Sport" the vitality of the idea is exhausted. The piece will undoubtedly meet with success, for we have had a good comedy for a long time, and we are recovering from the effects of its rude invasion some seasons ago. It is well enough in its way, and its visits need not be feared when they are few and far between.

ALAN DALE.

SIX PLANS SELECTED.

City Hall Building Commission Must Choose the Best from These.

Comptroller Myers said this morning that he had been unofficially asked by the Advisory Committee of Architects on plans for the new City Hall building at a decision.

The architects, who have been taking their own time, have made six plans, and as there are only two working days left this year there is but a short time left for the selection of the building commission until next year.

This will prevent Comptroller Myers, who has been in charge of the new City Hall project, from participating in the selection of the plan.

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FELL DOWN THE AIR-SHAFT.